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TO: EXAMINER ERIC KEASEL

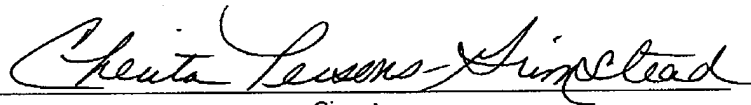
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1. Transmittal of Response to Office Action mailed July 13, 2004
and Response to the Petition Dismissed mailed July 2, 2004 for
Patent Application, Serial Number 10/393,558.
[Our Ref: 68.0172DIVUS] (33 pages)
2. Authorization to charge any fees to Deposit Account No.
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Applicant: Deaton, Thomas M.

Attorney Docket No: 68.0172DIV

Serial No: 10/799,152

Art Unit: 3754

Filed: 3/12/2004

Examiner: Keasel, Eric S.

For: Valve Closing Device

Mail Stop: AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED JULY 13, 2004

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed July 13, 2004.

The three-month date for response is October 13, 2004.

Please cancel claim 6.

Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner allowing claims 1-5.

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts the oath or declaration is defective.

This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/105,762. At the time of filing of the parent application on March 25, 2002, Schlumberger Technology Corporation petitioned to file the application under CFR 1.47(b). The petition was granted September 15, 2003.

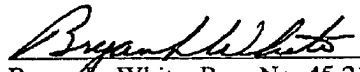
Under MPEP 602.05(a), a divisional application of a prior application afforded status under 37 CFR 1.47(b) will be afforded status under 37 CFR 1.47(b) if a copy of the decision affording status in the prior application is filed in the divisional application case. At the time the present application (10/799,152) was filed, a copy of the petition was inadvertently filed instead of the Decision Affording Status Under 37 C.F.R. 147(b). A copy of such decision is enclosed.

Thus, Applicant believes this application is in condition for allowance. Applicant requests reconsideration of this application and early allowance of same.

If required, please charge the surcharge for late filing, as set forth in 37 CFR 1.16(e), of \$130 to Deposit Account Number 50-0457. No additional fees are thought to be necessary. However should such fees be deemed necessary, please charge any fees and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0457.

Please stamp and return the enclosed postcard to acknowledge receipt of these documents.

Date: August 26th, 2004


Bryan L. White, Reg. No. 45,211

Intellectual Property Counsel
Schlumberger Reservoir Completions Center
14910 Airline Road
Rosharon, Texas 77583
Phone: (281)285-5720; Fax: (281)285-5537